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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 300584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, CH, US

SUBJECT: US-PRC EXCHANGES FOR 1977 - USG APPROACH

REF: STATE 289058

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, PROPOSALS BY TWO COMMITTEES FOR 1977 US-PRC FACILITATED EXCHANGES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CHINESE AND COPIES WERE POUCHED TO USLO NOVEMBER 25. IN THE PAST, USG VIEWS ON THESE EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO PRC OFFICIALS DURING THE SECRETARY'S PERIODIC VISITS TO PEKING, PRIMARILY IN THE COUNTERPART TALKS. THIS YEAR WE WISH TO HAVE USLO CONVEY USG SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEES' PROPOSALS. SINCE WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS AT AN AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD MAKE THE INITIAL APPROACH AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. (SHOULD ANY FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATIONS BE REQUIRED, WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION THE LEVEL AT WHICH THESE SHOULD BE HANDLED.) SINCE THE PRC WILL BE CONSIDERING THESE
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PROPOSALS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, YOUR APPROACH SHOULD BE

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MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER RECEIPT OF THE POUCHED
MATERIAL.

2. BACKGROUND - IN PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRC, WE
HAVE ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE TWO COMMITTEES
AND PRESSED FOR QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVE-
MENTS. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN REAFFIRMING
THE "GOVERNMENT-FACILITATED" CHARACTER OF THE EXCHANGES.
EXCEPT FOR THESE CONTACTS, THE CHINESE DEAL DIRECTLY WITH
THE COMMITTEES ON EXCHANGE MATTERS AND STRESS THEIR PEOPLE-
TO-PEOPLE NATURE. WE HAVE ALSO UTILIZED THESE DISCUSSIONS
TO PROPOSE EXCHANGES THAT ARE NOT HANDLED BY THE TWO
COMMITTEES, SUCH AS ,OFFICIAL" CONGRESSIONAL VISITS.

3. BOTH COMMITTEE" ' E PROPOSING A LARGER VOLUME OF NEW
EXCHANGES (I.E. TWELVE EACH DIRECTION) THAN THE CHINESE
HAVE AGREED TO IN RECENT YEARS.THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO
REITERATE ITS SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM,
EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT ASSUME THAT THE CHINESE WILL BE
RESPONSIVE. IN 1976, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 12 EXCHANGES,
SIX IN EACH DIRECTION. TWO 1976 DELEGATIONS, NATURAL
GAS (PRC) AND CHINESE PAINTING (US), HAVE BEEN POSTPONED
TO 1977, AND THESE (TOGETHER WITH THE PROPOSED VISIT BY
THE CSC BOARD) ARE NOT CONSIDERED PART OF THE SUGGESTED
PACKAGE FOR 1977. IF THESE CARRYOVERS AND THE CSC BOARD
ARE COUNTED, THE TOTAL COULD BE AS MANY AS 25 GROUPS.
WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE CHINESE WILL AGREE TO THIS
LARGE AN EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM, WE DO HOPE THAT THEY
WILL MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION.

4. TALKING POINTS. IN MAKING YOUR APPROACH, YOU SHOULD
DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

--WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE
PROPOSALS FOR THE 1977 FACILITATED-EXCHANGE PROGRAM FROM
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS AND THE
COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRC. WE
WISH TO EXPRESS THE OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF THE USG FOR THESE
PROPOSALS AND URGE YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THEM.

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--WE BELIEVE THAT THE PAST EXCHANGES IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE
BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. AS FAR AS THE US
SIDE IS CONCERNED, THIS IS TRUE NOT ONLY FOR THOSE
AMERICANS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EXCHANGES, BUT ALSO
FOR THE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE EXCHANGES
IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

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--WE HOPE THAT, APART FROM THE BALANCED AND EQUITABLE PROGRAM FOR 1977 WHICH WE BELIEVE THE COMMITTEES ARE PROPOSING, THE TWO DELEGATIONS WHICH WERE POSTPONED IN 1976 -- THE PRC NATURAL GAS DELEGATION AND THE US CHINESE PAINTING DELEGATION -- WILL ALSO BE RESCHEDULED IN 1977.

--THE USG ALSO SUPPORTS THE DESIRE OF THE TWO COMMITTEES
;
TO HAVE MEMBERS OF THEIR BOARDS AND ASSOCIATED STAFF MEMBERS VISIT CHINA IN 1977 FOR FAMILIARIZATION AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH DELEGATIONS WILL SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN IMPROVING THE SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

--YOU WILL HAVE NOTED THAT THE TWO COMMITTEES ARE PROPOSING A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES FOR 1977. AS IN THE PAST, WE CONSIDER IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES THAT AN INCREASE TAKE PLACE.

--FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE HAS SENT ONLY TWO GROUPS TO CHINA AND SPONSORED ONE CHINESE GROUP EACH YEAR. AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES A BROAD RANGE OF INFLUENTIAL AND INTERESTED ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC FIGURES, AND THE COMMITTEE'S EXCHANGES HAVE A WIDE IMPACT ON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S VIEW OF CHINA. FOR THIS REASON, WE FEEL THE COMMITTEE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM HAS MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR MUTUAL GOALS. I MIGHT MENTION IN THIS CONNECTION THAT OUR NEWLY-NAMED SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS VANCE, WAS THE LEADER OF ONE OF THE EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN 1975.

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--FOR 1977, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IS PROPOSING A MINIMUM OF FOUR VISITS EACH WAY. ONE PROPOSAL BY THE COMMITTEE IS A TOUR OF THE US BY A MAJOR BALLET OR OPERA TROUPE. IN VIEW OF PAST DIFFICULTIES, THIS WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AND PLANNING. WE WISH, THEREFORE, TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR EARLY REVIEW OF BOTH SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMS, CONSISTENT WITH PAST PRACTICE, SO AS TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE TO BOTH SIDES.

--THE COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO MOVE ON TO DEEPER AND MORE SUSTAINED EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES, AND STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION. THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY IS PLEASED WITH THIS TREND AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EXCHANGES THUS FAR. THE CSC'S PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR 1977 ARE DESIGN-

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ED AS A CONTINUATION OF THE MOVEMENT TOWARD MORE EXTENDED STAYS OF SCHOLARS AT SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONS FOCUSED ON PARTICULAR MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELDS. OUR EXCHANGES IN SEISMOLOGY ARE ONLY ONE OF MANY AREAS IN WHICH FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

--IN ADDITION TO THESE PROPOSALS BY THE TWO COMMITTEES,

WE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT TWO US CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS VISIT CHINA DURING 1977 UNDER THE FACILITATED-EXCHANGE PROGRAM. IN OUR VIEW, THE VISITS BY CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO YOUR COUNTRY AND THEIR MEETINGS WITH YOUR LEADERS HAVE PROVED ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL TYPES OF EXCHANGE. THE TIMING OF THESE VISITS, AND THE NUMBERS INVOLVED, COULD BE WORKED OUT ONCE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS IN OFFICE.

--AS IN THE PAST, WE BELIEVE THE SPECIFIC DETAILS CONCERNING THE PROPOSALS OF THE TWO COMMITTEES SHOULD BE LEFT FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMITTEES AND THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS ON THE CHINESE SIDE. WE WOULD WELCOME, HOWEVER, ANY VIEWS YOU HAVE ON THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO DATE AND ON PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A PROMPT TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF
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YOUR APPROACH SO THAT WE CAN KEEP THE TWO COMMITTEES FULLY INFORMED.
ROBINSON

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